

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2009**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Drew Satariano, President, at 9:00 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Drew Satariano, President
Brett Waterfield, Vice President
Simon George
Albert Guerra
Harry Saltzgaver
Sarah Sangmeister

Absent: None

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Sandra Gonzalez, Manager of Planning and Development
Ramon Arevalo, Acting Manager of Maintenance Operations
JC Squires, Manager of Business Operations
Sherri Nixon-Joiner, General Superintendent, Community Recreation Services
Bill Greco, Supervisor, Park Rangers
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Diane Wiley, Partners of Parks

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 18, 2008

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the December 18, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. RECOGNITION OF YEARS OF SERVICE

Ms. Sherri Nixon-Joiner introduced Robbie Stuart, a Department employee with 40 years of service. Ms. Michelle Gingras presented Ms. Stuart with flowers. Ms. Nixon-Joiner presented a clock containing photos to Ms. Stuart, a bouquet of flowers, along with her 40-year service pin.

IV. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

President Satariano stated that there were no Personal Services and Instruction Agreements this month.

Mr. Hester introduced Sandra Gonzalez, the new Manager of Planning and Development.

V. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano stated that they met and discussed the agenda.

1) 2009 Meeting Locations

President Satariano said that included in the packet is a listing of the meeting locations for 2009, based on input from the Commissioners.

2) Commission Retreat Results and Discussion

President Satariano said that the Commission Retreat last Friday was a good and informative event with a very health discussion about the challenges in 2009.

Mr. Squires said that the conversation was extremely healthy and assisted the management team as we moved into our all management meeting held Monday.

Mr. Hester said that the feedback was very valuable for the management meeting held on Monday. He was very proud of all the staff and they all stepped up in the discussions looking for reductions, revenue, etc. We had over 300 different ideas and suggestions from staff. Our plan is to take some of the Commission's comments and comments from the management staff together, continue meeting every other week with the management staff, and research how viable some of these suggestions are.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano said that the Committee did not meet but the financial statement was distributed.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Saltzgaver, Chair

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated that the Committee did not meet, but the report was included in the packet. He asked Mr. Greco to give an update.

Mr. Greco said that two park rangers have been transferred to the Office of Special Events and Filming. The remaining park rangers patrol El Dorado and Heartwell Parks full-time and they have redirected their focus to be more community-oriented. They get out of the car more and are getting to know the people that are using the parks. Communication with the public and with employees, in general, has improved.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that a meeting would be held next month and felt that it is important to put together a safety report from park supervisors and try to maintain our awareness of safety in all our parks.

President Satariano said that he would like to take the Special Events and Recreation Committee next.

F. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra said that they met and discussed the positive effect of park rangers with special events. The Committee agreed to work on a regular basis to keep up on this subject.

President Satariano went back to the general order of the agenda.

D. MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra said that the Committee did not meet.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Vice President Waterfield, Chair

Vice President Waterfield stated that the Committee would meet soon. He said that only the Marine Projects report was included in the packet.

Mr. Hester stated that the Park Projects report would be sent out to the Commissioners.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

- A. Recommendation to receive and file the Director's Monthly Highlights Report for December 2008.

President Satariano asked for any comments or questions on the monthly report. There were none.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

President Satariano said that included in the packet was a copy of a letter sent to Harry Saltzgaver notifying him that he was selected as the state's Outstanding Commissioner for 2008-2009 by the California Association of Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members (CAPRCBM).

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Partners of Parks Report – Diane Wiley

Ms. Wiley distributed a revised Partners of Parks Board roster and year-end activity report. She said that they have five new individuals on the Board. She also mentioned that Councilmember O'Donnell is asking for snow day sponsorships, through Partners of Parks, to hold a snow day at Whaley Park in February. She distributed the sponsorship form for the Commissioners and staff to hand out to anyone who might be interested.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

President Satariano stated that there was no new business.

X. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

President Satariano asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

B. STAFF

President Satariano asked for comments from the staff.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner let the Commissioners know that Ms. Chrissy Marshall would be taking a medical leave.

President Satariano said that he wished her the best.

Mr. Ramon Arevalo said that the landscape contractor is in full swing and there should be big improvements in the landscaping around the city.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked about the irrigation inventory and asked if the Water Department would be able to help out.

Mr. Arevalo responded that the grant they looked into was denied and this is work that the Department is unable to fund.

Mr. Hester said that he talked to the Water Department, who where were potentially interested in helping out, but nothing ever came of that.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Satariano asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated that the CAPRCBM Training is scheduled for January 24. He also mentioned that the Livingston Drive Tot Lot would have a grand opening on Sunday, January 25, at 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner George said he would need to leave the Commissioner Training a bit early.

X. NEXT MEETING

President Satariano stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, February 19, 2009, at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library, 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Satariano adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine